

measuring a property of the sample at a point having a position identified relative to the first location.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
using the polar coordinate stage to move the sample so that the view area of the imaging system contains a second feature;
rotating the image formed by the imaging system to compensate for a rotation of the sample by the polar coordinate stage while moving to the second feature;
using the pattern recognition module on the rotated image to identify a second location corresponding to the second feature; and
using identification of the first and second locations to determine the position of the sample to a third accuracy.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
using the polar coordinate stage to move the sample so that a plurality of points are sequentially positioned for measurement of the property of the sample at the points; and
sequentially measuring the property of the sample at the measurement points.

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-27 and 34-36 are allowed. Claims 28 and 33 are rejected and Claims 29-32 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 29 is amended to be in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 28, and Claim 28 is cancelled. Accordingly, Claim 29 is in condition for allowance. Claim 33 has been amended to depend from Claim 29. Thus, Claims 30-33 depend from

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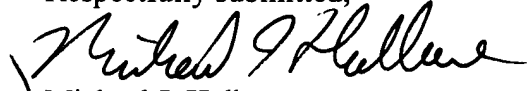
Claim 29 and are in condition for allowance since they no longer depend from a rejected base claim. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-27, and 29-36.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 453-9200, ext. 1209.

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Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT A

This response amends Claims 29 and 33 as follows.

29. (Amended) A [The] measuring device [of claim 28, further] comprising:
a polar coordinate stage including a rotatable platform for mounting of a sample;
an alignment system including an edge detector and a processing system that identifies
a position of the sample from measurements that the edge detector takes while the polar
coordinate stage rotates the sample;
a measurement system for measuring a physical property of a portion of the sample
that the polar coordinate stage moved into a field of view of the measurement system;
an imaging system for obtaining an image of a portion of the sample that the polar
coordinate stage moved into a field of view of the imaging system; and
an image rotator that rotates the image to compensate for rotation of the sample by the
polar coordinate stage.

33. (Amended) The measuring device of claim [28] 29, wherein the alignment
system further comprises a pattern recognition module that identifies a feature in the image
and determines a position of the sample.

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